

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 3 and 5 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,633,231 (Okamoto et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2001/0043271 (Kawano) and U.S. Patent No. 6,317,039 (Thomason).

The allowance of Claims 3 and 5 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. No new subject matter has been presented.

The combination of Okamoto et al, Kawano and Thomason fail to disclose or suggest each of the recitations of Claim 1, as amended. Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of Claim 2, Claim 2 is believed to be in condition for allowance at least by virtue of its dependence on Claim 1.

Claims 3 and 5 are allowed. Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1, 2, 3 and 5, are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, it is requested that Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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